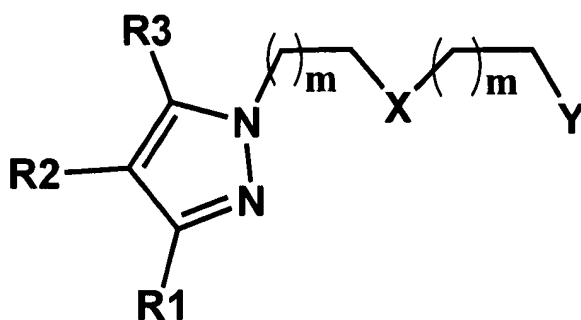


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replace all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1;

X is NR₄ or S;

Y is SR₅, NHR₅ or P(R₅)₂;

R₁ and R₃ are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

R₂ is COOH, NHR₆ or (CH₂)_nCOOR₆;

R₄ is H, alkyl, aryl, (CH₂)_nCOOR₆ or (CH₂)_nOR₆;

R₅ is H, alkyl, aryl, (CH₂)_nCOOR₆ or (CH₂)_nOR₆

R₆ is H, ~~a biomolecule~~, alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

2. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkyl is a C₁ alkyl, C₂ alkyl, C₃ alkyl, C₄ alkyl, C₅ alkyl or C₆ alkyl.

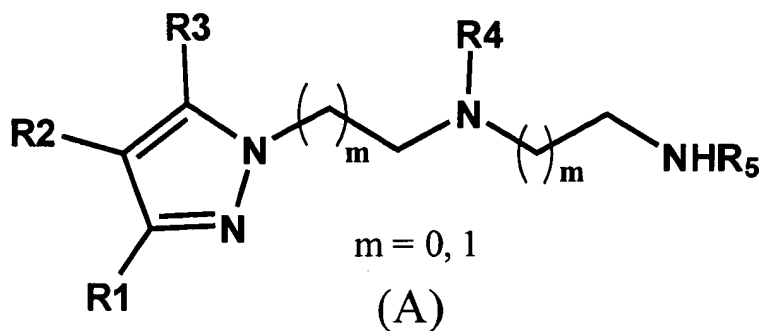
3. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 2, wherein the alkyl is methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, isobutyl, *s*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, *n*-hexyl, isohexyl (2-methylpentyl), neohexyl (2,2-dimethylbutyl), 3-methylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl.

4. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aryl is monocyclic or polycyclic, C₁₀-C₁₈, and optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from alkyl, carboxy, oxo, amino, alkoxy and aldehyde.

5. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 4, wherein the aryl is phenyl or benzyl.

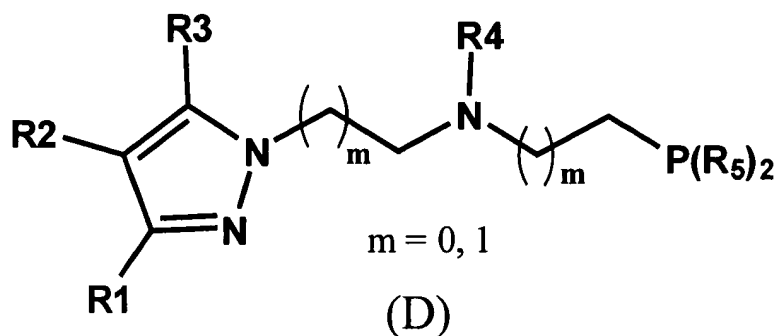
6. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein *n* is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

7. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-polyamine of the general formula:



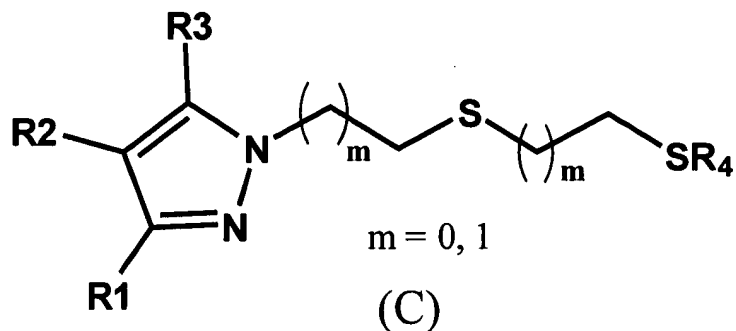
wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are as defined in claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-aminothioether of the general formula:



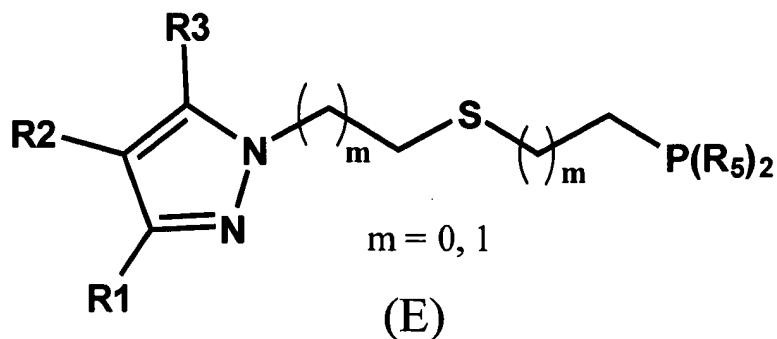
wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are as defined in claim 1.

9. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-polythioether of the general formula:



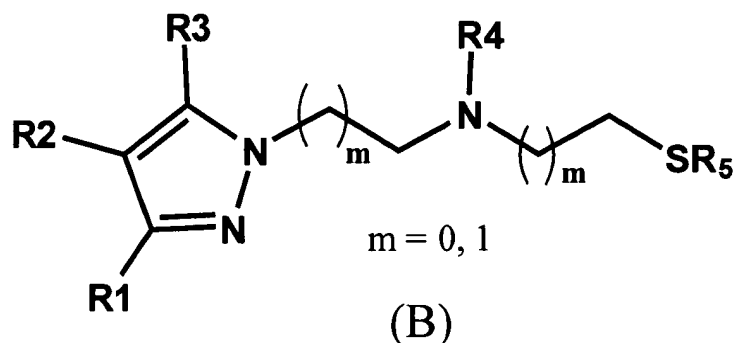
wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are as defined in claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-aminophosphine of the general formula:



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are as defined in claim 1.

11. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-thioetherphosphine of the general formula:



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are as defined in claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X and Y are N, R_6 is H, C_1 alkyl, C_2 alkyl, C_3 alkyl, C_4 alkyl, C_5 alkyl or C_6 alkyl, phenyl, or a benzyl or a biomolecule.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X and Y are S, R_6 is H, C_1 alkyl, C_2 alkyl, C_3 alkyl, C_4 alkyl, C_5 alkyl or C_6 alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, or a benzyl or a biomolecule.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is N, Y is S, R₆ is H, C₁ alkyl, C₂ alkyl, C₃ alkyl, C₄ alkyl, C₅ alkyl or C₆ alkyl, phenyl, or a benzyl ~~or a biomolecule~~.

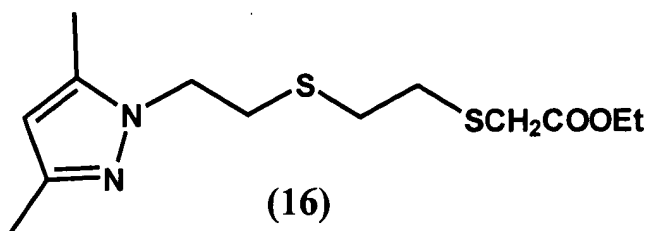
15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is S, Y is N, R₆ is H, C₁ alkyl, C₂ alkyl, C₃ alkyl, C₄ alkyl, C₅ alkyl or C₆ alkyl, phenyl, or a benzyl ~~or a biomolecule~~.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is S, Y is P(R₅)₂, R₆ is H, C₁ alkyl, C₂ alkyl, C₃ alkyl, C₄ alkyl, C₅ alkyl or C₆ alkyl, phenyl, or a benzyl ~~or a biomolecule~~.

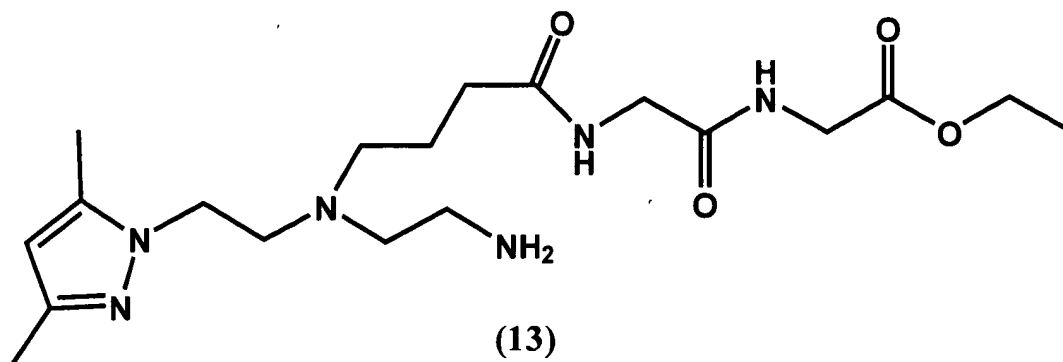
17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is N, Y is P(R₅)₂, R₆ is H, C₁ alkyl, C₂ alkyl, C₃ alkyl, C₄ alkyl, C₅ alkyl or C₆ alkyl, phenyl, or a benzyl ~~or a biomolecule~~.

18-23. (Canceled)

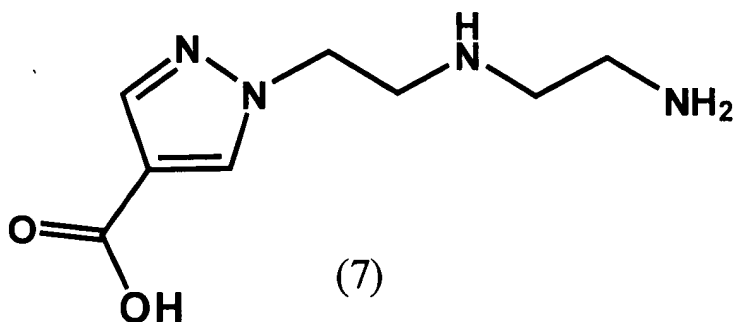
24. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a compound of the following formula:



25. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a compound of the following formula:

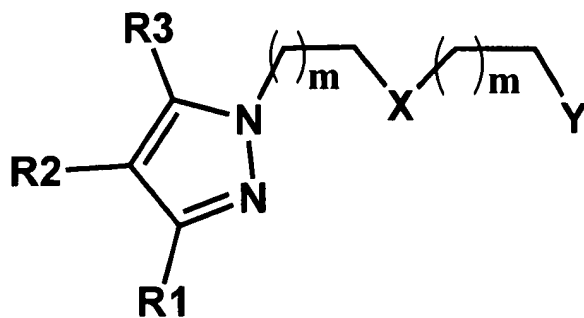


26. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a compound of the following formula:



27 - 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1;

X is NR_4 or S;

Y is SR_5 , NHR_5 or $\text{P}(\text{R}_5)_2$;

R_1 and R_3 are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

R_2 is H, COOH, NHR_6 or $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$;

R_4 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ or $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$;

R_5 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ or $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$

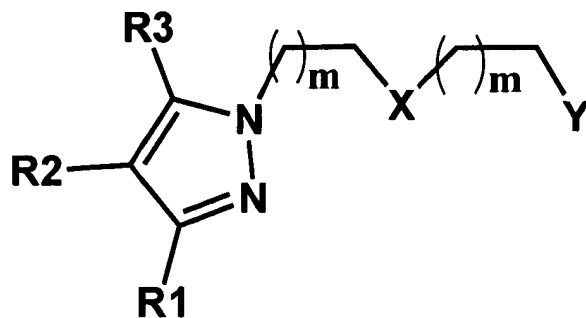
R_6 is H, ~~a biomolecule~~, alkyl or aryl;

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10; and

wherein at least one of R_1 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 is phenyl or benzyl.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1;

X is NR_4 or S;

Y is SR_5 , NHR_5 or $\text{P}(\text{R}_5)_2$;

R_1 and R_3 are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl,

wherein at least one of R_1 and R_3 is aryl;

R_2 is H, COOH, NHR_6 or $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$;

R_4 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ or $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$;

R_5 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ or $(CH_2)_nOR_6$

R_6 is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

39-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chelating agent is bound to a metal center.

42. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 41, wherein the metal center comprises rhenium or ^{99m}Tc technetium.

43. (Previously Presented) A metal complex comprising the chelating agent of claim 36.

44. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein R_6 is a biomolecule.

45. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from amino acids, peptides, proteins, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides, and sugars.

46. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of antibodies and ligands of tumor receptors.

47. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of CCK, thioglucose, glucosamine, somatostatin, neurotensin, bombesin, annexin, interleukins, growth factors, steroid hormones and molecules binding to GPIIb/IIIa receptors.

48. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of glucose, thioglucose, and neurotransmitters.

49. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is an inhibitor of the tyrosine kinase activity.

50. (New) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein when $R_1 = R_3 = \text{CH}_3$, R_2 , R_4 and R_5 are not all three H.

51. (New) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein when $R_1 = R_3 = \text{CH}_3$, R_2 , R_4 and R_5 are not all three H.

52. (New) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein when $R_1 = R_3 = \text{CH}_3$, R_2 , R_4 and R_5 are not all three H.